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For Immediate Release:

**The Montana Department of Labor & Industry Celebrates Workers' Memorial Day;
Reaffirms Commitment to Reducing Workplace Injuries and Fatalities**

(Helena, MT) April 28th marks Workers' Memorial Day, a day to remember workers who have been killed or injured on the job. This day also marks the 42nd anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

"In addition to remembering those who have died, this day is also an opportunity to reflect on the need to redouble our efforts to improve health and safety in the workplace," said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy. "Montana is the home of some of the hardest working people in the nation, doing some of the most difficult jobs. Every day, miners, construction workers, teachers, firefighters, police officers and thousands of other Montanans, lace up their boots and go to work to make our state a better place."

Every year in the US, around 4,500 workers are killed and another 50,000 die from occupational diseases. In Montana during 2011, there were a total of 49 work-related fatalities according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Of those over half were transportation related.

"Unfortunately, in Montana dozens of workers are killed every year, and hundreds more are injured on the job. We've seen great progress in reducing these numbers, but as long as there is a single workplace injury or fatality in the state, the Department of Labor and Industry will continue its efforts to make the workplace a safer place for Montanans to make a living for their families," Commissioner Bucy said.

The Department works with Montana businesses to improve safety and workplace conditions by:

- Monitoring public sector workplace compliance with safety and health standards
- Helping private sector businesses comply with OSHA requirements
- Providing workplace technical assistance on safety and health issues
- Conducting trainings on workplace safety and health, such as the SafetyFest events
- Inspecting coal mines, as well as sand and gravel operations
- Offering mine safety training

The Department also played a critical role in reforming Montana's workers' comp system during the 2011 session, working to bring organized labor, management, lawmakers and business interests to the table to find a solution that reduced costs for businesses while maintaining worker protections.

Annually, the Montana Department of Labor & Industry releases the "[Montana Occupational Injuries and Illness](#)" report.